

Q60575

Notification of Reasons for Rejection

Patent Application No.	Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication 2001-163497
Drafting date	8/14/2003
JPO Examiner	Fumio Hirose 8526 5H00
Applicant/Representative	Masatake Shiga (1 other)
Applied Provision	Patent Law Article 29, Paragraph 2; and Article 36

The present application should be refused for the reason mentioned below. If the applicant has any written opinion regarding this reason, such a written opinion should be submitted within 3 months of the date on which this notification was dispatched.

Reason

1. The description of the claims in the present application does not comply with the requirements under Patent Law Article 36, Paragraph 6, Item 2 on the following points:

Note

- (1) In Item 1 of Claim 9, there is no definition of σ and μ , and the construction of the invention is therefore unclear (The same applies to the detailed description of the invention.)
- (2) Claim 12 cites Claim 5; however there is no description in Claim 5 that is equivalent to "said (a-2-2) stage," and the construction of the invention is therefore unclear.
- (3) In Item 14 of Claim 14, there is no definition of b, and the construction of the invention is therefore unclear (The same applies to the detailed description of the invention.)

In the second formula of Item 6 in Claim 11, the lower limit of Σ , "1-1," seems to be an errant entry of "1=1" (The same applies to the detailed description of the invention.)

2. The inventions related to Claims 1 through 14 of the present application could have been easily invented by a person with ordinary knowledge of technology in the field to which the invention belongs based on the inventions recited in the publications below, which had been distributed in Japan or abroad prior to the application, or on inventions that have been available to the public via electronic communication, and therefore cannot receive a patent according to the stipulations of Article 29, Paragraph 2 of the Japan Patent Law.

Note

Cited Example 1	Journal of Information Processing (1999-2)
	Vol. 40, No. SIG3 (TOD1), pp. 11-23

“Search for the portion that takes into account the entire trend of data distribution of the vector space model.”

Regarding Claims 1 through 14:

As pointed out in the above Reason 1, the construction of the present application is unclear. In addition, the “centroid” in the invention described in the aforementioned Cited Example 1 is equivalent to the “index” of the invention in the present application. Therefore, the inventions related to Claims 1 through 14 of the present application could have been easily invented by a person skilled in the art, based on the inventions described in Cited Example 1.

As for claims other than the claim specified in this Notification of Reasons for Rejection, no reason for rejection is found at present. If any new reason for rejection is found, notification will be made.

Record of Prior Art Literature Search Results

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| ▪ Fields searched | IPC 7th Edition G06T7/00-60 |
| ▪ Prior art literature | Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication 2001-344553 |
| | International Publication Pamphlet No. 97/48069 |

This Record of Prior Art Literature Search Results does not constitute a reason for rejection.